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May 27, 2007

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W., TW-A325
Washington, D.C. 20554

David Honig, Executive Director
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Re: EB Docket No. 04-296 (§1.1206(b)(2) report)

Dear Ms. Dortch:

This will report on telephone calls discussing the ISBA/MMTC/OC, Inc. Petition for Immediate Relief ("Petition"): (1) Rick Chessen, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Copps (5/18, 21 and 24/07); Rudy Briocche, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Adelstein (5/21 and 24/07); Cristina Pauze, Legal Advisor to Commissioner McDowell (5/23/07); Dana Schaffer, Deputy Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau (5/25/07); Michelle Carey, Legal Assistant to Chairman Martin (5/25/07) and Commissioner Deborah Tate (5/25/07). The calls with Ms. Schaffer, Ms. Carey and Commissioner Tate were placed by them. On each call, I made these points:

- as the experience with Hurricane Katrina demonstrated, emergency messages and in-depth emergency information need to be provided to significant language groups in their own languages by speakers who can provide context, reassurance and trustworthy information
- there is a place in EAS planning for translations, but primary reliance in an emergency should be placed on in-language, broadcast radio communication in the human voice, in light of the desperate state of many listeners and their exclusive reliance on over the air radio if telephone and electric services are disrupted
- despite two years of Commission encouragement of voluntary initiatives, only ISBA and the Florida Association of Broadcasters have taken concrete steps to ensure that a "designated hitter" English language station will provide emergency information in Spanish (or other languages) when no Spanish (or other language) station is operational
- the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau should call in all stakeholders for consultations before the Commission votes on the Petition.

Sincerely,

David Honig

David Honig
Executive Director

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